it must be seen as a larger humanitarian issue. Government have on several occasions expressed deep concern to the Sri Lanka Government about the safety & security of Tamils in Sri Lanka, about civilian sufferings and casualties and the way these factors result in a larger influx of refugees into India.

Amendment to National Highways Act

2579. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI. Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the National Highways Act to enable private sector participation in the coistructiioi of Highways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The proposal to amend the National Highways Act, 1956 providing for collection of fees from the users of certain notified sections of National Highways, which would enable private sector participation, is under active consideration of the Government of India.

Permission for amnesty international to visit Punjab and Kashmir

2580. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some time back, the Prime Minister had refused permission to Amnesty International to visit Punjab and Kashmir saying that they should visit Karachi first;

(b) whether it is a fact that later on Government lifted all restrictions on their visit to the two States in India; and

(c) if so, what were the reasons, first to deny permission for Amnesty International's visit to the two troubled States and later to yield their demand?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) Following a review of our policy towards Amnesty International, Government decided to let Members of Amnesty International to come to India for private visits and for discussions with the Union Government. There is no request from Amnesty International for investigations in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. Hence, the question of giving or denying permission for such visit does not arise.

12.00 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Where is he? Has he resigned?

(**The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair)

I. Notification publishing the Central Industrial Security Force (Second Amendment) Rules, 1990

II. Notifications publishing the President's Pensioi (Amendment) Rules, 1990.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): Madam I lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification G.S.R. No 330, dated the 26th May, 1990, publishing the Central Industrial Security Force (Second Amendment) Rules 1990, under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1235|90)

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification G.S.R. 676(E), dated the 30th July, 1990, publishing the President's Pension (Amendment) Rules 1990, under sub-section (2) of section 5 of the President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1253|90]

Notifications of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Portswing).

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): Madam I lay on the